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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/017,685

12/14/2001

Scott West

9222.17412-CIP 1

9542

7590

04/27/2004

RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.
Post Office Box 26618
MILWAUKEE, WI 53226

EXAMINER

THANH, LOAN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3763

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2004

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,685

Applicant(s)

WEST ET AL.

Examiner

LoAn H. Thanh

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3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,7,11,12,15 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-6,8-10,13-14,16-17,19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant is reminded of the election of in paper no 9 of figs. 4a-4e.

With respect to the actuator, applicant has pointed out the actuator in fig. 3a-3b.

However, reference numeral 21 is not shown in figure 4 as disclosed in the specification. The lack of reference numeral 21 in figure 4 gives rise to the unclarity of how this actuator functions with the elected embodiment.

Priority

Applicant's oath/declaration claims the priority to be a CIP of 60/278738.

However only the provisional^{is} disclosed. The Examiner would like clarification that the present application (10/017685) is a CIP of 60/278738.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: actuator mechanism (21) in fig. 4A-4E. See page 16,line 26. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2,5-6,.8-9,13-14, 16-17,19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,626,128).

Bradley et al. disclose an apparatus (10) having a bite block and first and second gripping jaws (44). The actuator/squeeze clamp is considered the lip of the ring. All the functional language is met since the apparatus is capable of performing the function. In one interpretation the tubular member can be 42 and it is sized and configured for passage into an oral cavity since the lips/ mouth is the entry point of passage of the oral cavity. Further without further structurally distinguishing features, it is considered to be intended use. Another interpretation is the limitation of the tubular member is anticipated by reference numeral 14.

Claims 1-3,5-6,8,9-10,13-14,16-17,19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rogers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,555,881).

Rogers et al. disclose an apparatus having a bite block and first and second gripping jaws carried by the bite block. The device of Rogers et al. is capable of performing the function of the claimed limitations. See figures 9-10, 13-17. Columns 4-5. Specifically Rogers et al. disclose the jaws preferably formed of a material which allows for resilient expansion. The tubular member is 114 which is sized and configured

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for passage into an oral cavity . Furthermore without further structurally distinguishing features, it is considered to be intended use.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 02/24/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments are directed to the intended use of the device.

With respect to Bradley et al. ('128) applicant is directed to the interpretation rejection above. Due to the broad language of the claims the tubular member of the bite block is considered to be the tube 14 or the element 42. In response to applicant's argument that the tubular member 42 remains outside the oral cavity and body member 20 is for positioning in the oral cavity , a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

With respect to Rogers et al., the Examiner is in agreement to the degree that the lip bumper 16 prevents the entrance of the tubular member/collar 12 to meet the functional limitation. However, the broad language of the claims , allows the interpretation of the tubular member 114 to anticipate the claim.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LoAn H. Thanh whose telephone number is 703-305-0038. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (First Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 703-308-3552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LoAn H. Thanh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3763

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